

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to replace the Sequence Listing submitted on June 9, 2003, with a substitute Sequence Listing. The substitute Sequence Listing corrects errors in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2. Support for amended SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2 may be found, for example, in Figure 1A which recites the correct amino acid sequence for human BAFF (SEQ ID NO:1) and murine BAFF (SEQ ID NO:2).

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, Figures 1A-1C have been amended to replace the term "MARCH" with "BAFF." Support for the amendments to these Figures can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 11-15. Applicants note that "MARCH" was merely an early name for the ligand now commonly known as "BAFF." Applicants have provided a copy of original Figures 1A-1C with the proposed changes shown in red. Replacement sheets for Figures 1A, 1B, and 1C are also attached.

All pending claims have been cancelled and new claims 51-64 were added in order to more specifically point out the claimed embodiments. Support for new claims 51-64 may be found in the specification, for example, as stated in Applicants' Amendment filed on January 27, 2004. Additionally, support for new claims 60-64 can be found on pages 15-17.

No new matter is introduced by any of the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require further clarification, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (617) 452-1650.

Applicants do not believe that any extension of time is necessary for entry of this Amendment. However, in the event of an error, please grant any extensions of time required and charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Reg. No. 34,872



BAFF
hMARCH
mMARCH
BAFF

1 MDDSTE-REQSRLTSC LKREEMK LKECVS I LPRKESPI S V R - SSKDGK LLAATLLLA
1 MDES AKTLP P PCLCF CSEKGE DMK VGYDP - ITPQKEEGIAWFGICRRDGRLLAATLLLA

TMD

56 LLSCLT VVSF YQVAALQGDLAS LRAELQGHHA EKLPAGAGAP KAGLEEAPAVTAGL
57 LLSSSF TAMSL YQLAALQADLMN LRMELQSYRGSA TPAAAGAP - - - - - ELTAGV

BAFF
hMARCH
mMARCH
BAFF

113 KIFEPAPGEGN SSSQNSRNKRA VQGPEET - - - - -
106 KLLTPAAPRPHN SSSRGHRNRRAFP GPPEETEQD V DLSAPPCLPGCRHSQHDDNGMN

BAFF
hMARCH
mMARCH
BAFF

141 - - - VTQDCLQLIADSE TPTIQKGSY TFFVPWLLSFKRGS ALEEKENKILVKE TGYFFFI
163 LRNI IQDCLQLIADSD TPTIRKGT Y TFFVPWLLSFKRGN ALEEKENKIVVRQ TGYFFFI

☆

BAFF
hMARCH
mMARCH
BAFF

196 YGQVLYTDKTYAMGH LIQRKKVHVFGDELSLVTLFRCIQNMPE TLPNNNSCYSAGIAR
220 YSQVLYTDPIFAMGHV IQRKKVHVFGDELSLVTLFRCIQNMPPK TLPNNNSCYSAGIAR

BAFF
hMARCH
mMARCH
BAFF

253 LEEGDEIQ LAIPRENAQIS LDGDDV TFFGALKLL
277 LEEGDEIQ LAIPRENAQIS RNDGDD TFFGALKLL

FIG. 1A



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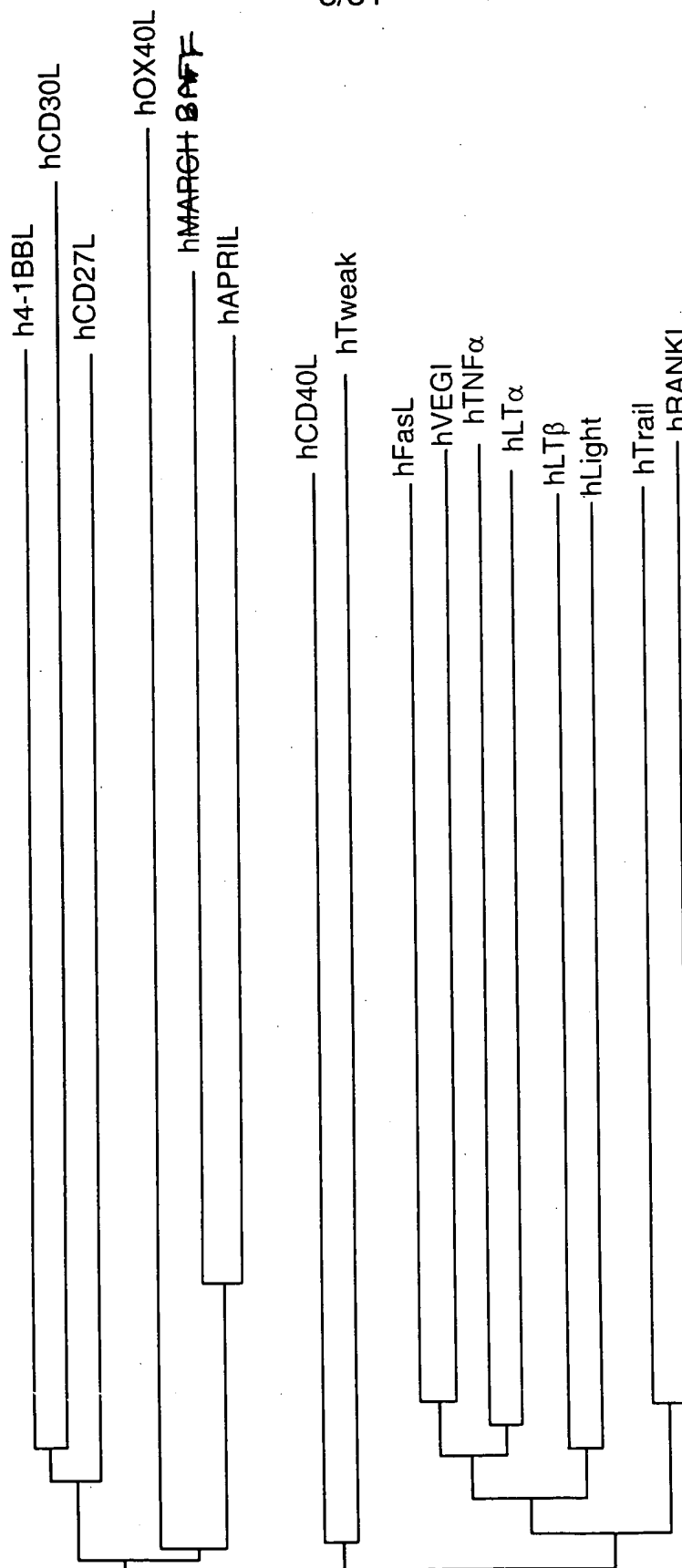


FIG. 1C